

18 JUN 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of White House Projects

SUBJECT : The Presidential Medal of Freedom

1. I recommend that Herman Wouk be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

2. The recent publication of his long-awaited novel, War and Remembrance, caps a lifetime of unparalleled literary contribution by Herman Wouk devoted to a better understanding of America and Americans. In War and Remembrance, he explores the fundamental pressures which move nations to war; the inexorable pain and suffering; and the waste in both human and material terms which compel a skepticism of all wars. He provides us with what critics agree are the finest descriptions of the battles of the Pacific ever written. While the academic historian and the social scientist are concerned with these same issues, it is the novelist alone who can bring them to life and give them meaning for vast numbers of people all over the world.

3. In this and other works like Winds of War, The Caine Mutiny, and Youngblood Hawk, Herman Wouk combines an understanding of people with a brilliant literary talent to paint for all readers the diversity of the American character, the sincerity of our purpose, and the humanity of our outlook. For the majority of the world who only know us through our literature, this prolific and sensitive writer has provided an accurate and balanced picture of America of which all Americans can be proud. In doing so he has contributed uniquely to the stature and dignity of our nation.

4. Herman Wouk is the preeminent American novelist today writing in the areas of national security, foreign affairs, and international human rights. His thinking influences countless individuals worldwide who read his books. He is a highly respected American who is singularly deserving of this important honor.

/s/ Stansfield Turner
STANSFIELD TURNER

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addressee from EOB*